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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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ANDREAS BULAN ET AL :

SERIAL NO: To be assigned : ART UNIT:

FILED: -HEREWITH- : EXAMINER:

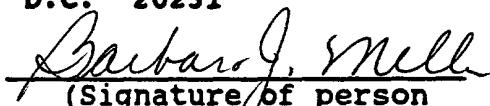
FOR: "PROCESS FOR PREPARING  
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to the determination of the filing fee and any action  
on the merits of the accompanying new patent application, kindly  
amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 3-4 and 6-10 as follows:

3. (Amended) Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the mixing time is 1 to 60 minutes, preferably 5 to 20 minutes.
- 4 (Amended) Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the catalyst used is a copper catalyst or an iron catalyst.
6. (Amended) Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the mixing of silicon and catalyst takes place at a temperature of from 100 to 400°C, preferably at 130 to 350°C.
7. (Amended) Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the mixing of silicon and catalyst takes place in the presence of hydrogen.
8. (Amended) Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the reaction is carried out at a pressure of from 1 to 40 bar (absolute).
9. (Amended) Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the reaction is carried out at temperatures of from 400 to 800°C.
10. (Amended) Process for preparing silane and/or ultrapure silicon, characterized in that the starting material is trichlorosilane obtained according to Claim 1.

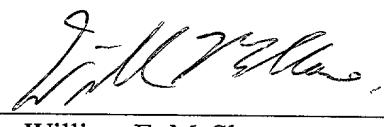
#### **REMARKS**

Claims 3, 4 and 6-10 have been amended to refer to only one preceding claim. Each of the dependent claims, as amended, now depends on only one preceding claim. Therefore, no additional fee is required for multiple dependency.

A marked-up version of the amended claims is provided in the attached Appendix A.

Prompt and favorable action on the present application is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP

By: 

William E. McShane  
Reg. No. 32,707  
Tel. (302) 658-9141

WEM:bjm

Enclosure: Appendix A

**Appendix A**  
**Marked-Up Version of Amended Claims**

3. (Amended) Process according to Claim 1 [or 2], characterized in that the mixing time is 1 to 60 minutes, preferably 5 to 20 minutes.
- 4 (Amended) Process according to [Claims 1 to 3] Claim 1, characterized in that the catalyst used is a copper catalyst or an iron catalyst.
6. (Amended) Process according to [Claims 1 to 5] Claim 1, characterized in that the mixing of silicon and catalyst takes place at a temperature of from 100 to 400°C, preferably at 130 to 350°C.
7. (Amended) Process according to [Claims 1 to 6] Claim 1, characterized in that the mixing of silicon and catalyst takes place in the presence of hydrogen.
8. (Amended) Process according to [at least one of Claims 1 to 7] Claim 1, characterized in that the reaction is carried out at a pressure of from 1 to 40 bar (absolute).
9. (Amended) Process according to [at least one of Claims 1 to 8] Claim 1, characterized in that the reaction is carried out at temperatures of from 400 to 800°C.
10. (Amended) Process for preparing silane and/or ultrapure silicon, characterized in that the starting material is trichlorosilane obtained according to [at least one of Claims 1 to 9] Claim 1.

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